Revival Package for NPCC

*138. *SHRI* NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Package under Government's consideration for revival of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) After examining all aspects, a proposal containing four options namely (i) Closure (Immediate or in Phases); (ii) Privatisation; (iii) Management Contract for Reforms; and (iv) Revival, has been framed in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Issuance of Passport

*139. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications pending with Regional Passport Offices in the country as on date, office-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Regional Passport Office at New Delhi alone has the largest pending applications; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to expedite issuance of passports within one month, as assured earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A detailed *statement* showing the number of passport applications pending with various Regional Passport Offices in the country as on 15th May, 1998, which is the latest date for which such figures are available is laid on the table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are computerisation of processing procedures, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of Passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

Statement

S.No.	Passport Office	Pendency brought forward from 1997	Pending over a month as on 15.5.1998	Total Pendency as on 15.5.1998
1.	Ahmedabad	19559	7368	22537
2.	Bangalore	20399	8878	17378
3.	Bareilly	14108	12172	16983
4.	Bhopal	3679	1668	4321
5.	Bhubaneshwar	4022	3272	4285
6.	Calcutta	7304	1978	7709
7.	Chandigarh	13362	9515	19293
8.	Chennai	22109	17598	28673
9.	Cochin	8941	1472	10617
10.	Delhi	33753	26483	32954
11.	Ghaziabad	—	3123	4322
12.	Goa	2200	2282	2964
13.	Guwahati	2511	1639	2747
14.	Hyderabad	31383	4777	21037